



JUNE 2025

IMPACT REPORT



A movement to end **diabetes stigma**

with laughter!

dStigmatize

A letter from the dStigmatize Director



Dear allies of the movement to end diabetes stigma,

Thank you for supporting our work.

Our mission at diaTribe has always been to improve the lives of people with diabetes and their loved ones through education and advocacy. Since 2016, we have convened leaders from every corner of the diabetes field to identify the greatest barriers to progress. One barrier that has consistently stood in the way of progress is **diabetes stigma**.

Nearly 80% of adults living with diabetes report experiencing negative social judgments, stereotypes, and prejudice – day in and day out. This stigma impacts not only the mental and emotional well-being of those living with diabetes, but also their physical health, reducing the ability to effectively manage their condition. On top of that, it obstructs vital awareness and prevention efforts that could help those at risk as well.

At diaTribe, we know that addressing diabetes stigma is an essential missing element of effective diabetes care. That's why we launched dStigmatize in 2022.

Eliminating diabetes stigma will require diverse solutions from a wide range of stakeholders. Fueling those solutions is the basis for our initiatives to expand research efforts, educate healthcare professionals, create an informational hub, and influence larger narrative change around diabetes.

Our latest initiative, **Spoonful of Laughter**, is designed to cut through the noise. As a disruptive, out-of-the-box campaign co-created with comedians, artists, advocates, and industry partners with and without diabetes, Spoonful of Laughter uses comedy to educate about diabetes and push back against stereotypes and stigma.

As we reflect on the first phase of Spoonful of Laughter, we're thrilled by the progress and excited for what's to come. We are deeply grateful to Insulet, the maker of Omnipod, and the Truman Heartland Community Foundation for their generous support, which made this groundbreaking campaign possible.

We invite you to continue this journey with us. As we work to end diabetes stigma and discrimination, your ongoing support is critical. Together, we can create a future where people with diabetes are empowered, not judged—where health, hope, and dignity prevail for all.

Thank you for being an integral part of the diaTribe community and the dStigmatize movement.



Matthew Garza
dStigmatize Director

Spoonful of Laughter: Creating a Movement



How do you solve a problem that is widely underestimated, often perpetrated by people unknowingly, and deeply entrenched in our society?

You laugh at it.

No, seriously.

Diabetes stigma has become embedded in our current cultural narratives. It's why jokes like "Wow, that dessert looks like diabetes on a plate" have become so normalized. To eliminate diabetes stigma, we have to replace the current narratives with more accurate, respectful, and empowering ones.

Research shows that an unlikely, but extremely effective strategy for doing this is to use comedy to propel your messaging. That's because comedy can:

- Increase attention and awareness
- Lower resistance to persuasion
- Make complex social issues accessible and break down social barriers
- Stimulate sharing and discussion.

This strategy works. For example, it's hard to imagine a world where the same level of progress in LGBTQ+ rights was achieved without the cultural influence of sitcoms like *Will and Grace* or *Modern Family*.

This was the spark that ignited Spoonful of Laughter, a national initiative to use comedy as



a tool for educating about diabetes and pushing back against stigma and stereotypes. We wanted to emulate the success of other movements while trying something that few have attempted in the diabetes field – cracking jokes about a serious condition!

We assembled a powerhouse team of creative talent, including rising comedians with and without diabetes, influential advocates, visionary artists, industry leaders, and top television producers. Together, we brainstormed, scripted, and filmed six dynamic comedy sketches which demonstrate that we can tackle the complexities of diabetes in a way that both entertains and engages audiences. We shared these videos across diaTribe's social media platforms to shift the narrative – moving away from fear and judgment and toward curiosity and empathy.

We don't want to lecture people into changing their stigmatizing behavior. We want to lead people giggling into a kinder, more respectful, and more joyful future for all those affected by diabetes.

Meet the Spoonful of Laughter Comedians



Spoonful of Laughter is possible because of the amazing comedic talent we brought together to craft the content that formed the backbone of the campaign. Meet our five featured comedians!

Kelsey Bascom

American filmmaker and diabetes advocate best known as the creator, writer, and lead of the web series MONDAYS. She is in post-production on her feature film, QUARTER, a coming-of-age comedy about a young woman living with type 1 diabetes who is navigating her blood sugar levels and the ups and downs of turning 25.

@kelseybascom



Kesha Carter

Kesha Carter blends her unique talents as a comedian, personal trainer, advocate, and flight attendant to inspire others living with diabetes. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age, Kesha has never let her diagnosis define her. Instead, she has turned it into a powerful motivator for her advocacy.

@instakeesh



Justin Eastzer

Also known as "Diabetech," Justin is a storyteller and content creator. After a type 2 diabetes misdiagnosis, the support and knowledge of the diabetes community helped lead him to a correct diagnosis (type 1.5). With his background in Hollywood productions, Justin now shares his journey and insights through his Diabetech YouTube channel, podcast, and social platforms.

@diabe_tech



Ashley Monique

Ashley Monique is a San Francisco-based comedian who delivers wry and sometimes dark humor with a disarming, earnest energy. She is a regular at the San Francisco Punch Line and Cobb's Comedy Club, and she has opened for Melissa Villaseñor, Josh Johnson, and Roy Wood Jr.

@trashleymonique



Samuel Morrison

In 2023, Sam made his television debut on Late Night With Seth Meyers, performed on Comedy Central, and his solo show *Sugar Daddy* played Off-Broadway for 14 weeks. He performed in the 2024 Netflix *is a Joke* Festival and has performed in the New York Comedy Festival five times, headlining in 2023.

@samuelhmorrison



A spoonful of impact*



In the campaign's first 9 months, Spoonful of Laughter has reached hundreds of thousands of people, transforming the way we think about and discuss diabetes.

2,500,000

Video views across all diaTribe and Spoonful platforms

"Keep this rolling. So on point, our oldest is T1D. This stuff is so hard, but humor and relatability HELP!" – Evan

"As someone without diabetes, these videos helped me take a step back and say, 'Wait, am I [contributing to stigma]? How can I change that if so?'" - Megan

"Truly appreciate what you are doing. Would have been a bit easier growing up with something to bring laughter and light to the invasive and dark times!" – Brendan



196,000

Engagements

160,000 likes
3,000 comments
23,000 shares
8,000 saves
2,000 clicks

10,000

New followers

across all diaTribe and Spoonful of Laughter accounts

92%

Increase in mentions of diabetes stigma online

188% increase in potential impressions**

Instagram Spotlight:

468,000 accounts reached by diaTribe & Spoonful of Laughter, 456,000 of which were not followers (97%).

52,800 accounts engaged by diaTribe & Spoonful of Laughter, 48,700 of which were not followers (92%).

2,000,000 total views and **625,000 video replays** on Instagram.

A spoonful of impact continued*



With a near-zero budget for paid marketing opportunities, we amplified the reach of Spoonful of Laughter by leveraging partnerships, organizing events, and earning web traffic.

Matthew Garza and Kelsey Bascom delivering a talk back at *Sugar Daddy*, Sam Morrison's one-man show at The Wallis in Beverly Hills.

75

Organizations and individual amplifying partners

60,200

Spoonful of Laughter website views

8,000

Press views & engagements
diaTribe News

Press release featured on AP, Yahoo Finance, and more

Additional press (view count unknown)

T1D Exchange

Children with Diabetes Newsletter

23,000

Video shares on social media

600

New email list sign-ups

7

Launch events & appearances

Sugar Daddy with Sam Morrison

IG Live Launch Party

IG Live with Justin Easterer

IG Live with the Diabetes Link & Kesha Carter

“Brown Bag” with DPAC

“Insulin Inclusive” with Diversity in Diabetes

diaTribe Exclusive with Kelsey Bascom

Thank you to our sponsors & team



We want to express our deep gratitude to our sponsors, Insulet, the maker of Omnipod, and the Truman Heartland Community Foundation. Spoonful of Laughter would not have been possible without their generous support.



We also want to thank the entire team that helped create Spoonful of Laughter.

- SpoonfulofLaughter.org
- [@ASpoonfulofLaughter](https://www.instagram.com/@ASpoonfulofLaughter)
- [@ASpoonfulofLaughter](https://www.instagram.com/@ASpoonfulofLaughter)
- [@thediatribefoundation](https://www.youtube.com/@thediatribefoundation)



Want to support the diaTribe Foundation and help make Spoonful of Laughter possible?
Scan the QR Code.

Kelsey Bascom	Clare Kenny
Irene Canuti	Ashley Monique
Jim Carroll	Sam Morrison
Kesha Carter	Eileen Opatut
Tommy Crawford	Theresa Parsons
Justin Eastzer	Santiago Paulos
Brian Fitzgerald	Shae Puckett
Morgan Fluhrer	Kat Savage
Matthew Garza	Beth Strachan
Ben Jehoshua	Carrie Van Horn

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